

Paula Shields
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Avon

Testimony in Support of HB 5707- Proper Dog Sheltering Bill.

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

As a constituent, I urge you to support and joint favorably report HB 5707, the Proper Dog Sheltering Bill. The ASPCA has proposed a definition of “proper shelter” to ensure that dogs that are kept outdoors are reasonably safe in severe weather conditions. These recommendations are very straightforward making it easy for the pet owner to comply with the law and the animal control officers to enforce the law. Pets are a huge responsibility and it is time to hold people accountable. As an animal lover and a human being this all seems like common sense. My dogs are an important part of my family. I made the choice to have them and I will do my best to give them the life they deserve. It is our responsibility to give our voice to those without one. Mr. Gandhi said it best, “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

I also ask that you support and joint favorably report HB 6187, to Require Court Advocates for Animals and Prohibit Accelerated Rehabilitation in Animal Cruelty Cases. Multiple studies have shown overwhelming links between abuse of animals and violence against people. A study conducted by the Chicago Police Department from 2001-2004 “revealed a startling propensity for offenders charged with crimes against animals to commit other violent offenses toward human victims.”

Prohibiting “Accelerated Rehabilitation” in animal cruelty cases will ensure the defendant is adequately penalized and could stop the cycle of violence before it accelerates to violence against people.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Paula Shields